



PRESS RELEASE
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Dr. Norman Wall, whose US Army medical unit established WWII field hospital in Palestine that became Sheba Medical Center, Passes Away at 99

Tel Hashomer, Israel.... Dr. Norman M. Wall, a Jewish member of the US Army medical corps during World War II that established a field hospital near Tel Aviv that later became the Sheba Medical Center at Tel Hashomer, the largest hospital in Israel, passed away last week at his home in Heathrow, Florida. He was 99.

It is a little-known fact that the US Army was in Palestine during WWII, because of Allied concern about a German invasion under Field Marshall Rommel from North Africa. The British requested medical support from the US Army, preparing for possibility of war in Palestine.

Dr. Wall's military unit was dispatched to the Middle East and North Africa, where it established field hospitals in Cairo, Khartoum, Eritrea and Addis Abbba. In March 1943, the US army medical unit arrived in Palestine, setting up the 24th Station Hospital, a compound of Quonset huts equipped with operating rooms and medical supplies at a site known as Tel Litwinsky (which later became Tel Hashomer). The huts still stand on the Sheba Medical Center campus.

In October 1945, the US Army field hospital was turned over to the British Armed Forces. Upon the end of the Mandate era, the site and facilities were taken over by the IDF Medical Corps, then under the direction of Dr. Chaim Sheba. With the establishment of the state in 1948, the site became Tel Hashomer Hospital.

“For the doctors and leadership of the Sheba Medical Center at Tel Hashomer in Israel, Dr. Norman Wall was a legendary figure. He was one of the founders of the hospital during World War II,” said Prof. Zeev Rotstein, the CEO of Sheba Medical Center. “Norman Wall was selflessly devoted to the fledgling State of Israel from its earliest days. His friendship and wise counsel were steady throughout his life.”

After the War, Dr. Wall returned to the US, where he practiced medicine as a cardiologist in Pennsylvania. He remained an ardent Zionist, organizing medical supplies to Israel after the Six-Day War, supporting the new medical school at the Ben Gurion University, and inviting Israeli medical students to train with him in the US. In May, the Norman M. Wall Fellowship in Cardiology was established by the Sheba Medical Center, enabling Israeli physicians to train in the US.

His son, Jay, grandchildren and great-grandchildren live in Israel. Another son, Harry, was the director of the Israel office of the Anti-Defamation League.

The [Chaim Sheba Medical Center at Tel Hashomer](#) is the most comprehensive medical center in Israel and the Middle East, recognized internationally for its leadership in clinical treatment, as well as basic and applied medical research. It combines six major facilities: a vast [medical research complex](#), [medical education academic campus](#), [acute care hospital](#), [children's hospital](#), [women's hospital](#), the country's main [rehabilitation hospital](#), and a world-renowned [medical simulation center](#). As Israel's national hospital, Sheba handles 1.5 million patient visits and conducts 46,000 operations annually.